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CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1941.

The Acting Commonwealth Statistician has made available the following particulars obtained from the Census of Australian Aboriginals which was taken in all States of the Commonwealth on the 30th June, 1941.

With the assistance of the State Statisticians, the Protectors of Aboriginals and the Police an annual Census of the aboriginal population of Australia has been taken since the year 1924. Certain particulars had been ascertained before that date in some States, but an annual Census had not been attempted.

In previous reports, reference has been made to the difficulties of collection, in consequence of which the figures published in the following tables should not be taken as more than reliable estimates.

Owing to difficulties in collecting data it is not proposed to take a further census until after the war.

FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINALS

The full-blood aboriginal population of Australia at 30th June, 1941, was 47,620 persons of whom 26,572 or 56.0 per cent were males and 21,048 or 44.0 per cent were females. Adults numbered 37,900 and children 9,720.

The recorded numbers of the full-blood aboriginals remained fairly steady between 1921 and 1933 but in 1934 a complete check of most of the outlying districts of Western Australia and Northern Territory was responsible for a substantial revision of the figures for these areas and the total for Australia was reduced from 60,101 persons in 1933 to 54,848 in 1934. From 1934 to 1938 the numbers declined during each year, but there was a small increase in 1939. The apparent large decrease in 1940 is due to the exclusion of Torres Strait Islanders and there was a further small decrease in 1941. Prior to 30th June, 1940, these Islanders were included as aboriginals, but, owing to the provisions of the Queensland "Torres Strait Islanders Act of 1939", they are now placed in a different category and under separate administration in that State. The number of Torres Strait Islanders recorded in Queensland at the census of 30th June, 1941, was 3,675 (1,887 males and 1,788 females) all of whom are classed as full-blood under the Act.

In 1921 the aboriginal population consisted of 82.3 per cent full-bloods and 17.7 per cent half castes. Since that year, owing to the steady decrease in the number of full-bloods and the rapid increase in the number of half castes, the proportion of full-bloods has fallen to 65.4 per cent whilst that of the half-caste population has risen to 34.6 per cent.

At the 30th June,1941, there were 10,170 full-blood aboriginals in regular employment compared with 9,998 in 1940 and 10,711 in 1930. The figures for 1929 however, include Torres Strait Islanders, 870 of whom were in regular employment at 30th June, 1941. The principal industries in order of importance in which males are engaged are:- grazing, fishing, farming, domestic service, pearling, road construction and black tracking. The females are mainly engaged in domestic service.

HALF-CASTE ABORIGINALS

The half-caste population of Australia at the 30th June, 1941, numbered 25,191 persons (13,223 or 52.5 per cent males and 11,968 or 47.5 per cent females) a decrease of 120 for the year.

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The number of half caste aboriginals as recorded in each State was as follows:- New South Wales 10,022 or 40 per cent; Queensland 6,451 or 25.6 per cent; Western Australia 4,407 or 17.4 per cent; South Australia 2,220 or 8.8 per cent; Northern Territory 1,037 or 4.1 per cent; Victoria 687 or 2.7 per cent; Tasmania 284 or 1.1 per cent; and Australian Capital Territory 83 or 0.3 per cent.

Since 1901, the half-caste aboriginals have more than trebled in number, having increased from 7,370 persons in that year to 25,191 at 30th June, 1941. The rate of growth has been consistently maintained, there being 10,113 in 1911, 12,630 in 1921, and 19,014 in 1931. Since 1901 the half-caste aboriginals have been increasing at a consistently higher average annual rate than the white population.

Half-castes recorded herein include persons of mixed white and aboriginal blood living with aboriginals and other persons in whom the strains are approximately equal.

CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1941
AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL AND HALF-CASTE ABORIGINAL POPULATION
1921 TO 1941

30th June	Full-blood				Half-caste (a)				Total Aboriginal Population
	Adults	Children	Total	Percentage on Total Aboriginal Population	Adults	Children	Total	Percentage on Total Aboriginal Population	
				%				%	
1921	46,723	12,048	58,771	82.31	7,931	4,699	12,630	17.69	71,401
1929	49,078	12,723	61,801	78.80	9,450	7,179	16,629	21.20	78,430
1930	49,167	12,567	61,734	77.62	10,213	7,584	17,797	22.38	79,531
1931	46,676	12,225	58,901	75.60	10,923	8,091	19,014	24.40	77,915
1932	47,345	12,374	59,719	75.68	10,891	8,305	19,196	24.32	78,915
1933	47,321	12,780	60,101	75.53	10,999	8,468	19,467	24.47	79,568
1934	42,955	11,893	54,848	71.93	12,040	9,359	21,399	28.07	76,247
1935	42,492	11,886	54,378	70.44	12,800	10,017	22,817	29.56	77,195
1936	41,950	11,748	53,698	69.59	13,137	10,324	23,461	30.41	77,159
1937	41,306	11,529	52,835	68.81	13,596	10,354	23,950	31.19	76,785
1938	40,487	10,892	51,379	67.52	13,988	10,730	24,718	32.48	76,097
1939	40,482	11,075	51,557	66.72	14,275	11,437	25,712	33.28	77,269
1940(b)	38,096	9,864	47,960	65.46	13,802	11,509	25,311	34.54	73,271
1941(b)	37,900	9,720	47,620	65.40	13,496	11,695	25,191	34.60	72,811

(a) Includes persons of mixed,white and aboriginal blood living with aboriginals and other persons in whom the strains are approximately equal.

(b) Exclusive of Torres Strait Islanders in Queensland.

CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1941
FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINALS

State or Territory	ADULTS					CHILDREN				Total Full-blood Aboriginals
	Nomadic	In Regular Employment	In Supervised Camps(a)	Other	Total Adults	Nomadic	In supervised Camps	Other	Total Children	
MALES										
New South Wales ..	22	84	157	56	319	6	23	27	56	375
Victoria ..	-	17	-	24	41	-	9	12	21	62
Queensland ..	724	2,549	658	152	4,083	143	601	280	1,024	5,107
South Australia ..	535	303	168	86	1,092	224	62	85	371	1,463
Western Australia ..	6,753	2,357	755	199	10,064	1,380	332	241	1,953	12,017
Tasmania ..	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
A.C.T. ..	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Territory	2,821	1,926	1,239	39	6,025	712	787	22	1,521	7,546
Total Males:	10,855	7,236	2,978	557	21,626	2,465	1,814	667	4,946	26,572
FEMALES										
New South Wales ..	7	28	95	29	159	5	39	16	60	219
Victoria ..	-	-	5	11	16	-	2	8	10	26
Queensland ..	617	689	1,277	243	2,826	167	610	267	1,044	3,870
South Australia ..	580	142	167	120	1,009	201	75	50	326	1,335
Western Australia ..	5,667	1,296	638	214	7,815	1,359	318	200	1,877	9,692
Tasmania ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A.C.T. ..	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Territory	2,203	779	1,435	31	4,448	684	757	16	1,457	5,905
Total Females:	9,074	2,934	3,618	648	16,274	2,416	1,801	557	4,774	21,048
PERSONS										
New South Wales ..	29	112	252	85	478	11	62	43	116	594
Victoria ..	-	17	5	35	57	-	11	20	31	88
Queensland ..	1,341	3,238	1,935	395	6,909	310	1,211	547	2,068	8,977
South Australia ..	1,115	445	335	206	2,101	425	137	135	697	2,798
Western Australia ..	12,420	3,653	1,393	413	17,879	2,739	650	441	3,830	21,709
Tasmania ..	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1
A.C.T. ..	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
Northern Territory	5,024	2,705	2,674	70	10,473	1,396	1,544	38	2,978	13,451
Total Persons:	19,929	10,170	6,596	1,205	37,900	4,881	3,615	1,224	9,720	47,620
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS										
MALES										
Queensland ..	-	806	408	5	1,219	-	659	9	668	1,887
FEMALES										
Queensland ..	-	64	1,028	20	1,112	-	669	7	676	1,788
PERSONS										
Queensland ..	-	870	1,436	25	2,331	-	1,328	16	1,344	3,675

(a) Excludes those living in Supervised Camps who were in regular employment.

Note: The figures for Western Australia include 10,000 full-blood aboriginals estimated to live outside the influence of Europeans. These have been distributed as follows:- 4,000 male adults, 4,000 female adults, 1,000 male children and 1,000 female children.

CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1941

HALF-CASTE ABORIGINALS(b)

State or Territory	Adults					Children				Total Half-caste Aboriginals
	Nomadic	In Regular Employment	In Supervised Camps(a)	Other	Total Adults	Nomadic	In Supervised Camps	Other	Total Children	
MALES										
New South Wales ..	200	1,423	700	694	3,017	89	992	1,263	2,344	5,361
Victoria ..	14	120	1	68	203	10	81	63	154	357
Queensland ..	9	1,330	97	390	1,826	9	559	899	1,467	3,293
South Australia ..	174	384	119	23	700	123	246	77	446	1,146
Western Australia	107	763	219	72	1,161	114	622	422	1,158	2,319
Tasmania ..	-	7	61	29	97	-	38	16	54	151
A.C.T. ..	-	20	8	-	28	-	18	-	18	46
Northern Territory	6	269	8	1	284	5	224	37	266	550
Total Males:	510	4,316	1,213	1,277	7,316	350	2,780	2,777	5,907	13,223
FEMALES										
New South Wales ..	107	634	765	887	2,393	109	946	1,213	2,268	4,661
Victoria ..	6	50	44	64	164	2	98	66	166	330
Queensland ..	8	462	585	599	1,654	10	612	882	1,504	3,158
South Australia ..	176	81	232	80	569	158	281	66	505	1,074
Western Australia	82	537	292	141	1,052	99	535	402	1,036	2,088
Tasmania ..	-	3	50	28	81	-	35	17	52	133
A.C.T. ..	-	-	18	-	18	-	19	-	19	37
Northern Territory	1	176	20	52	249	4	186	48	238	487
Total Females:	380	1,943	2,006	1,851	6,180	382	2,712	2,694	5,788	11,968
PERSONS										
New South Wales ..	307	2,057	1,465	1,581	5,410	198	1,938	2,476	4,612	10,022
Victoria ..	20	170	45	132	367	12	179	129	320	687
Queensland ..	17	1,792	682	989	3,480	19	1,171	1,781	2,971	6,451
South Australia ..	350	465	351	103	1,269	281	527	143	951	2,220
Western Australia	189	1,300	511	213	2,213	213	1,157	824	2,194	4,407
Tasmania ..	-	10	111	57	178	-	73	33	106	284
A.C.T. ..	-	20	26	-	46	-	37	-	37	83
Northern Territory	7	445	28	53	533	9	410	85	504	1,037
Total Persons:	890	6,259	3,219	3,128	13,496	732	5,492	5,471	11,695	25,191

(a) Excludes those living in Supervised Camps who were in regular employment.
(b) Exclusive of Torres Strait Islanders in Queensland.

Note: Half-castes recorded above include persons of mixed white and aboriginal blood living with aboriginals and other persons in whom the strains are approximately equal.

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